

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226225

FOR MICHAEL STYLES; BERLIN FOR C, AIRMAN ROBSON

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: EAIR,UK

SUBJECT: US RESPONSE TO UK UNILATERAL ACTION

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1. INFORM GEORGE ROGERS OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, OTHER APPROPRIATE HMG OFFICIAL THAT WE HAVE GIVEN MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO VIEWS ROGERS AND SHOVELTON EXPRESSED DURING RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH BILLER IN LONDON. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH RENEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL IS CONDUCTED BE AS POSITIVE AND AS FREE OF FRICTION AS POSSIBLE. OUR INTENTION, AS EXPRESSED IN SEPTEMBER 9-10 MEETING, IS TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY TO ESTABLISH REGIME WHICH WILL SERVE AVIATION INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND ACHIEVE LONG-RANGE SOLUTIONS TO CURRENT PROBLEMS. WE HOPE THAT UK ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NEGOTIATIONS IS THE SAME.

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2. IN ORDER TO PRESERVE CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE WE URGE UK TO RESCIND UNILATERAL CAPACITY LIMITATION ON NATIONAL AND TWA IN MIAMI AND CHICAGO MARKETS. IF UK DOES NOT RESCIND, WE WILL BE COMPELLED TO TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION. AS WAS INDICATED TO BRITISH ON SEPTEMBER 9, OUR ACTION WILL BE MODERATE IN THE EXPECTATION THAT BRITISH WILL REFRAIN FROM FURTHER UNILATERAL ACTION WHILE THE PROCESS OF RENEGOTIATING THE BERMUDA AGREEMENT IS UNDER WAY.

3. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION WE HAVE FROM NATIONAL AND TWA, THEIR LATEST PLANS FOR WINTER OPERATIONS OUT OF MIAMI AND CHICAGO ARE VERY CLOSE TO LEVELS CONSIDERED DESIRABLE BY BRITISH. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS IS SATISFIED WITH LEVELS PLANNED BY NATIONAL AND TWA. ROGERS APPARENTLY HAS DIFFERENT UNDERSTANDING OF BRITISH AIRWAYS' VIEWS. WE SUGGEST THAT HE CONSULT WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS AGAIN TO SEE WHETHER SOLUTION BASED ON UNILATERAL DECISIONS BY AIRLINES MIGHT NOT PROVIDE SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS.

4. CAB IS ISSUING ON SEPTEMBER 14 PART 213 ORDER REQUIRING UK CARRIERS TO FILE SCHEDULES. HOWEVER, AT DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, CAB WILL WITHHOLD PUBLIC RELEASE OF ORDER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 17. WE ARE DELAYING PUBLICATION OF ORDER SO

THAT BRITISH WILL HAVE SEVERAL MORE DAYS TO ACCEPT MIAMI AND CHICAGO FREQUENCIES ENCOMPASSED IN US AIRLINES' PLANS AND RESCIND UK UNILATERAL CAPACITY LIMITATION. ROBINSON

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